

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS, JANUARY, 1928

[The table herewith contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A more complete statement will appear in the Annual Report of the Chief of Bureau]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path (yards)	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks	Authority
West slope of Cascades and along Columbia River, Wash.	1-2					Glaze	Communication and power transmission wires damaged; trees broken.	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau.
Helena, Mont.	11-12					High wind	Considerable damage to windows, light globes, etc.; roofs of several buildings torn off or ripped loose.	Do.
Cincinnati, Ohio and vicinity. ¹	19	7:07 a. m.	160		\$100,000	Tornadoic wind	Extensive property damage; 18 persons injured.	Do.
Louisville, Ky. ¹	19	7:20-7:40 a. m.	50		\$94,000	Tornado	Damage confined to roofs, windows, and upper stories of buildings; a few buildings totally demolished; 18 persons injured; path 16 miles long.	Do.
Pano, Okla.	19	11:25 p. m.				Small tornado	2 residences wrecked; large seed house damaged.	Southwest American (Fort Smith, Ark.).
Chattanooga, Tenn.	19	10 a. m.				Wind and rain	Trees, autos, wires, etc., damaged.	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau.
Fern Creek to Jefferson-town, Ky.	19				(?)	Tornado	Property damage reported over path 4 miles long.	Do.
De Kalb, Kane, Du Page, and Cook Counties, Ill.	19-20					Wind	Rail and car service interrupted at points; trees, poles, and wires blown down; light farm buildings demolished; light service impaired.	Do.
Fond du Lac and Sheboygan Counties, Wis.	19-20				10,000	do	Character of damage not reported.	Do.
Fort Wayne, Ind.	19-20				2,000	do	Windows, telephone, and power lines damaged.	Do.
Grand Haven, Mich.	19-20					Wind and ice	Navigation tied up; school building partially unroofed; public utilities services interrupted.	Do.
Chattanooga, Tenn.	24	1 p. m.			10,000	Wind and thunderstorm.	Old buildings, barns, etc., damaged; industrial plants suffer.	Do.
Cairo, Ill., and adjoining area of Kentucky.	24			1	10,000	Wind	Plate-glass windows, telephone lines, and roofs damaged; 1 person injured.	Do.
Chester, Rock Hill, and Columbia, S. C.	24	P. m.			8,000	Thunderstorm and wind.	Buildings and trees considerably damaged.	Do.
Missouri (southeastern)	24					Wind	A number of dwellings damaged; trees broken; 5 persons injured.	Do.
Atlantic coast, New Jersey to Maine.	25				1,000,000	do	All forms of traffic and transportation interrupted; extensive damage to plate glass in New York City.	Evening World (New York City, N. Y.).

¹ For detailed description see p. 15 of this REVIEW.

² Figures of Louisville item include damage and injured at Fern Creek, Ky.

RIVERS AND FLOODS

By H. C. FRANKENFIELD

An ice gorge that formed in the Connecticut River at South Glastonbury, Conn., about January 6, caused a rather rapid rise in the river northward to Hartford, where a crest of 12.9 feet was reached at noon of January 8. Advices were issued on January 7, and on the following day the ice passed out without resulting damage.

There were no floods over the Atlantic drainage during the month, nor over the east Gulf drainage except a moderate one in the lower Tombigbee River of Alabama during the early days of the month. Warnings were first issued on January 1, and at 2:30 p. m. of January 5 the river at Lock No. 4, Demopolis, Ala., reached a stage of 43.4 feet, or 4.4 feet above the flood stage. The Black Warrior River crest was slightly below the flood stage. Only a very small area of the lowest bottoms near Demopolis was flooded, and losses were \$3,900, with reported savings through warnings of \$15,500.

Moderate local floods in the middle and lower Wabash River resulted from the rains of January 18, 19, and 24. Warnings were issued as required, and no damage was reported.

The Illinois River remained moderately high during the month, and the alluvial river was somewhat above flood stage throughout the month except at Peoria and Pearl, Ill. Only reassuring advices were necessary, and there was no damage.

In the lower Missouri River and the St. Louis section of the Mississippi River ice movements during the first half of the month created an interesting situation. Regarding this Mr. M. W. Hayes, of the Weather Bureau office at St. Louis, commented as follows:

In the lower Missouri and the Mississippi ice movement was of great interest. Heavy floating ice began on the 1st, and by the morning of the 4th a gorge had formed at Salt Lake Towhead, 43 miles south of St. Louis. Other gorges formed, which resulted in the river at St. Louis rising from 9 feet on the 3d to 21.6 feet on the 7th. Gorges between St. Louis and Salt Lake Towhead moved slightly and caused fluctuations in the St. Louis stage on the 8th, 9th, and 10th. The gorge at Salt Lake Towhead, and the others, began breaking up on the 10th, causing a rapid fall of 9.7 feet in the 48 hours ending at 7 a. m. of the 12th. The St. Louis Harbor was clear of ice on the 15th. Every effort was made to collect ice information for the benefit of bridge construction contractors on the lower Missouri and the Mississippi, and for managers of floating property. The efforts were reasonably successful.

The newly repaired Port Barre South Levee, west of the Atchafalaya River in the State of Louisiana, was breached about 2 miles south of Henderson, La., on December 21, 1927, and during the early days of January, 1928, gave way at several other near-by places. Seventeen farms were flooded and 70 partly flooded—about 2,000 acres in all. Movable property was not damaged, but Red Cross relief measures were extended to 33 families.

Unusually mild temperatures over the State of Montana during the first half of January caused a general and rapid reduction in snow cover, and also the breaking up of the ice on the Yellowstone River. On January 18 warnings were issued from the district center at Bismarck, N. Dak., to prepare for a 6-foot rise in the Missouri River at that place and decided rises at all points below. The rises occurred as forecast, and only more favorable weather prevented more serious conditions. At Glendive, Mont., on the Yellowstone River, the river, on January 14, reached a stage of 23.3 feet, or 6.3 feet above the flood stage, and some lands in the lower portion of the city were inundated.